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WE LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY, OR DO WE?

It's the eve of the elections for National Chief at the Assembly of First Nations. But I can't participate. Neither can you. The Chiefs of the various nations vote the National Chief in during a conference. There are about 600 or so nations across Canada . That's 600 votes out of a possible 500,000.

The AFN supposedly represents the native people across Canada. But I don't feel it speaks for me. It doesn't speak for me because I can't participate in the elections. I can't participate in the formation of policies or the decision-making process.

We live in a democracy or do we? What have the South Africans fought so long for? I think it was something along the lines of "One person one vote."

Why can't I, like the South Africans, have one vote for me? The AFN has the potential to become a vital force within the Canadian political scene. If it wants to be.

Right now, it seems to be a marginal committee or fringe group which the media politely calls for a quote during a crisis or something. Maybe they do some good work with this and that royal hearing or whatever.

But that's boring stuff. There has to be some sort of revolution within the native political world. It has to catch up with the spiritual revolution already going on. Maybe the AFN could register itself as a political party in the next elections.

Get everyone from the homelands, er, reservations to organize, unite everyone in one front to make a difference. sign up candidates in all the ridings and include everyone across this country because everyone needs to heal. Lets take the best of our cultures, our ways and offer them to everyone to share. Get in parliment and then make the necessary changes to the so-called system from within instead of the outside. Hmmm, just a thought...

Only when the so-called average native can participate in the political process which affects his or her destiny can the system begin to address the needs of natives across this land called Canada.

During the elections, only Chiefs from across Canada vote in the National Chief elections. I feel excluded from this process which "elects" a representative for me.

The only way I can participate is if I am a Chief. I have no wish or desire to become Chief. But I do want to participate in a process which affects my very being. So let's catch up with the South Africans. And grant me my one vote. It's not a privilege, but my right.

BY ERNEST WEBB

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Cover photo: Stephane Wuttune on goose break. Photo by Stephane himself

JULY 15, 1994

PHOTO BY NEIL DIAMOND

SHADES OF THE BUFFALO JUMP

I've always wondered how the Plains First Nations felt when they started to notice the buffalo disappearing. To see your source of food and well-being deliberately being killed off. Finding rotting carcasses with only choice portions taken. Wanton slaughter, they called it, even back then when it was happening.

We all know the result. The decimation, the loss of pride and killing of viable aboriginal cultures. All historians agree that this was a death blow to the native cultures that subsisted on them. It deprived them of independence and power as a people.

I think some Crees know the feeling. With the clearcutting and sports hunting, we see the scarcity of moose and other game in some Cree communities. One wonders with the refusal by the governments to implement the section of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement that deals with moose quotas. I, for one, wonder if the governments have learned from history and what lesson did they learn from it. Did they learn of the possible dangers or did they concentrate on the fact that aboriginal cultures can be severely damaged by a loss of land and wildlife as a food resource?

There is a difference between hunting as a way of life and hunting for sport. I'm not saying every non-native hunter only takes the head and leaves the rest of the animal to rot (some Waswanipi residents have seen this). I know a lot of non-Crees who hunt and use the animal as a food source. However, there is a difference between the two methods.

Crees are being reasonable when they point out that there are less moose and that there is a need to protect the population. But leaving this problem until we've reached the 11th hour is unacceptable. Preventive measures as laid out in the JBNQA are required and now.

Otherwise the government's failure to protect the falling moose population unless Crees agree to fully participate in not hunting moose is just another attempt to circumvent the spirit of the Agreement. The section in the Agreement concerning moose quotas and possible restrictions on non-Cree hunters is what all parties agreed was necessary to ensure the well-being of the Crees and the land in their care.

To do otherwise or attempt to circumvent the Agreement is both dishonourable and a sad repeat of history.

BY WILL NICHOLLS

the Nation

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THE NATION IS PUBLISHED EVERY TWO WEEKS BY BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS. PRINTED BY QUEBECOR INC.

THE NATION HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151
CHISASIBI, QUE. J0M 1E0

PRODUCTION OFFICE
5678 PARC AVE.
P.O. BOX 48036
MONTREAL
CANADA, H2V 4S8

EDITORIAL
TEL.: 514-272-3077
FAX: 514-278-9914

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INDIVIDUALS: $45/YR ABROAD: $50/YR
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PHOTO BY JAMES BOBBISH

ACTION NEEDED ON MOOSE CRISIS, SAYS CHIEF

Quebec should restrict forestry operations and sports hunting by non-natives to reverse a dramatic fall in moose numbers in the Cree Territory, says the Chief of the Waswanipi First Nation.

"It's almost a crisis," said Chief John Kitchen. "Something has to be done now."

The moose population in the southern part of the James Bay Territory has fallen by half in just five years. If current levels of sports hunting and forestry continue, a Cree Regional Authority biologist has predicted there will be no more moose left in the region by 1998.

"If they want to save the moose, they have to tell the sports hunters to stop hunting," said Kitchen, who is Chief of the Cree community most affected by forestry operations. Half of the Waswanipi First Nation's territory has already been clearcut.

Chief Kitchen said Crees might agree to help by cutting back their annual kill to one moose per trapline. But he said that won't help if forestry companies continue destroying the moose habitat and building logging roads that give non-native sports hunters greater access to the region. The clearcutting is also hurting other wildlife like fish and bears, said the chief.

The Quebec government has hinted that it would restrict sports hunting, but it wants to apply the same restrictions across the board, to Crees as well as non-natives. Chief Kitchen criticized this approach. "Non-natives should be the first ones restricted."

Paul Dixon, the Cree Trappers Association officer in Waswanipi, agrees with the Chief. He points to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement which grants Crees a guaranteed minimum yearly moose harvest. The Agreement says that if this minimum isn't attained, Quebec must restrict hunting by non-natives, something Quebec has refused to do despite years of poor Cree moose harvests.

Dixon said forestry operations and sports hunting are having devastating effects on many forms of wildlife in the region including the moose. This, in turn, has had a profound impact on Cree society and the hunting way of life, said Dixon. He said many moose have actually stopped mating because of the dramatic changes to their environment. This spring, he said, many female moose didn't get pregnant, something which will further deplete moose numbers.

Cree trappers from all the southern communities hope to meet with Quebec conservation and forestry officials to discuss the problem in Ouje-Bougoumou July 16. Dixon wants the forestry department at the table because he said restrictions are needed on tree-cutting. But forestry officials have been reluctant to meet with Crees or ask forestry companies to slow down their work. Dixon said if the forestry department isn't present, the meeting will be called off.

The CTA is currently preparing a resolution calling for government action on the moose problem, which will likely include a call for a ban on sports hunting and clearcutting. Chief Kitchen said that whatever the CTA comes out with, the trappers will have the full backing of the Waswanipi Band Council.

Provincial conservation officials could not be reached for comment by *The Nation*.

BY ALEX ROSLIN

BANQUET CELEBRATES CENTRE'S 20TH B-DAY

After 16 years in the same building, the Native Friendship Centre of Val d'Or is finally getting a new home.

The centre's new building was publicly launched at a $125-a-plate fundraising banquet attended by 300 people on June 22. The banquet was also held to celebrate the Val d'Or centre's 20th birthday. When it was created by a small group of Algonquins in 1974, the centre had just three staff. Now it has 12 permanent employees and 15 others working on contract.

Janet Mark, the Friendship Centre's director of operations, was just eight when the centre first opened. She says it provides an important service to Val d'Or's First Nations community, which numbers 300 to 400 people, and to natives from across Canada who are just passing through. "Val d'Or is a place where you have Algonquins all around and Crees travelling here. With the Native Friendship Centre, they can always come here and there's always someone who can help them," said Janet, who is from Mistissini.

She says the centre represents native concerns on many local and regional boards, including the welfare office, government training and job-development committees, and the youth protection office. After a year at the centre, Janet, 28, will be leaving soon to take a job as principal at the school in Ouje-Bougoumou.

The centre's current building has room for up to 11 people to sleep over. The new building will have room for up to 29, and will have a new boutique selling native arts and crafts. Since there is no Algonquin store in Val d'Or and the Cree-owned Wachiya store recently closed its doors, the centre's boutique will be the biggest seller of First Nations arts in the city, said Janet. The new $1.7-million building will also have a bigger dining area and a new drop-in centre where people can hang out. Construction will start this fall. In addition to moving, the centre is also getting ready to offer a course in Algonquin.

For more info call the centre at 819-825-6857. —*Alex Roslin*

PHOTO BY ERNEST WEBB

Bad for business

Letter to the Editor:

Subject: "The chef is on vacation" article in the June 1994 issue

I consider the article on the Capissisit Lodge written by Neil Diamond an insult to Cree enterprises and to Ouje-Bougoumou. What I consider even more irresponsible is the editors of *The Nation* allowing such an article to be published.

The following are some items Neil Diamond needs to realize:

1) Ouje-Bougoumou is a new community. Capissisit Lodge is a new restaurant with newly trained employees. The Lodge was open only two or three months prior to when Neil ate there.

2) If there is a complaint about service or the quality of food, present your complaint to the restaurant management. Don't publish your complaint to the rest of the country. A little ethics goes a long way.

3) Restaurant staff a little shy??? Perhaps Neil should get back into the mainstream of Cree life instead of alienating himself in Montreal. Shyness is a typical Cree character when among a large and strange crowd, but after a little experience, it can be controlled. P.S. The staff is tri-lingual, so the customers don't need to worry about the phrases in Cree. Thanks anyway, Neil.

4) Yes, the chef needs a vacation once in a while like everyone else. After all, he is just human.

This type of negative publicity is not necessary for any community to go through. It is bad for morale and business, especially if it is a fellow native who prints garbage such as the one mentioned above.

An apology for the insult printed should be forthcoming from both Neil Diamond and *The Nation* to the Ouje-Bougoumou people. This is both professional and expected.

You have the tools and the opportunity to encourage unity and Cree support through *The Nation*. I advise you screen articles more closely in the future, and I suggest Neil Diamond stick to photography rather than journalism.

Johnny Dixon,
a resident of Ouje-Bougoumou

"Harsh article"

Letter to the Editor:

How good it is to sink a Cree business.

Is it by jealousy due to the fact that surely Ouje-Bougoumou is going to have more tourists in their restaurant than Waskaganish, the village of Mr. Neil Diamond, a dirty joker and a dirty tongue?

So when you came to the "Capissisit Lodge," Mr. Diamond, you recognized the great blessing of having access by the road and maybe learned that next winter a snowmobile trail is going to unite Ouje-Bougoumou with Chibougamau, Mistissini, Chapais, Waswanipi and others. The view might be nice and the foods delicious at the "Auberge Kanio-Kashee Lodge," but with the price of a plane ticket not a lot of tourists can afford them.

Take back, Mr. Diamond, your title of May 19, 1994 on *The Nation* (Vol. 1, no. 11): "Like no other restaurant in the world." Of course Waskaganish, with no access road, a poor tourist population and maybe only its own people to taste and see its wonders.

Let's go back to Ouje-Bougoumou where we have some employees in the "Capissisit Lodge" speaking Cree-English-French but maybe they were not on duty when you came, Mr. Diamond. Your harsh article might not be forgiven by all, because not all are due a memory lapse like you mention it.

Maybe the taste of the blueberry glazed pie was disagreeable, but why didn't you mention it on the spot, Mr. Diamond? This is really impolite for you to let the first people concerned know about it at the same time as all the other readers of *The Nation*. Among other things did you fail again to take "more detailed notes" or maybe you have committed another big booboo when you wrote that article?

Come back when the cook is there, Neil!

And when you are sober.

P.S. To all the staff of the "Capissisit Lodge," go ahead with your good works.

Luc Flageole,
future resident of Ouje-Bougoumou

Ed. note: Neil's article was in no way intended to "sink a Cree business" or "insult" Ouje-Bougoumou. He wrote about his experiences in the restaurants. We hope he will continue to write about his observations and maybe snap a few photos. We're sorry some of our readers were unhappy with the restaurant review, but a restaurant critic should be allowed to call them as he sees them. As a new business itself, The Nation *fully supports new Cree business efforts.*

P.S. He was *sober.*

NOTE

Due to time constraints, we were unable to credit any of the photos in the June 17 issue of *The Nation*. The photo of Freddy Jolly on page 12 was taken by Bill Howson.

The Nation welcomes your letters, opinion pieces, poetry, photos, legends and sports stories. We strive to reflect the the views of all our readers.

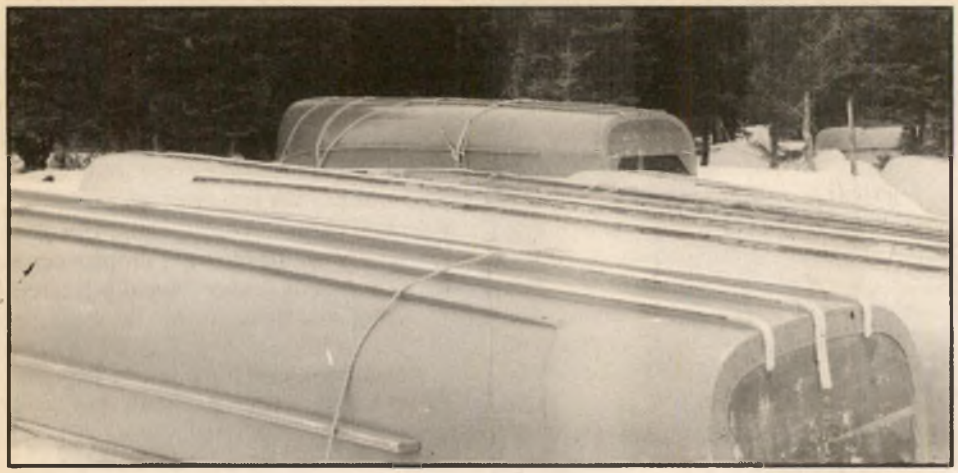

PHOTO BY ERNEST WEBB

BELCHER ISLANDS PEOPLE FIGHT TO BE HEARD

The Sanikiluaq Inuit of the Belcher Islands are trying to get their voices heard in hearings into the proposed Great Whale River Project. At the moment they have no official representation at the hearings despite the serious impacts of Great Whale and other hydro-projects on their way of life.

"It is not just Great Whale but all the dams around the bays. We have a reasonable idea of possible impacts inland. But what the Hydro-Quebec study and other studies are totally lacking in are the possible effects on the offshore marine environment. There's a whole range of concerns there and there has been very little attention given to it up to now," said Brian Fleming, one of the environmental officials of the Sanikiluaq Inuit.

"If further hydroelectric development is going to proceed, the community wants some pretty straight-forward honest answers to the questions they are raising in terms of the reversals of the fresh water flow, concentrations of it, diversions, nutrient flow changes and so on."

Five separate committees are conducting hearings into the proposed Great Whale hydroelectric project. The Crees have representation on two of them and the Inuit of Quebec have representation on two more. The fifth committee is the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office (FEARO) committee. FEARO guidelines say there must be someone local present to hear testimony involving social and economic impacts. But presently, this committee has no natives sitting on it.

FEARO is the committee which the Sanikiluaq people have asked to be induded on. Officially, the Belcher Islands are part of the Northwest Territories. The NWT government has supported their request for representation on FEARO. Discussions are currently going on.

So far, the Belcher Islands people don't feel like the environmental committees have given their concerns a fair hearing. During a community environmental hearing in Sanikiluaq, the chair of one of the review committees, Paul Lacoste, cut off testimony to fly out because of a storm warning. The Inuit never got to give full testimony. "There were several people lined up at the microphone when they brought an abrupt end to the public meeting and started packing up," says Fleming. "The community was pretty outraged by it."

This isn't the only time or place that Paul Lacoste has shown insensitivity towards native people. When public hearings were conducted in the community of Great Whale/Whapmagoostui/Kuujjuarapik/Grande Baleine (all the same place), the native residents were allowed to speak in their own language—either Cree or Inuit. Witnesses remember that when testimony was being given in Cree or Inuit, Lacoste was in the habit of removing his translator earphones and staring straight ahead blankly.

Whapmagoostui Chief Matthew Mukash said he and his community are very much in support of the Sanikiluaq people's fight for representation. "Their hunting and harvesting territories would be affected by the proposed Great Whale River Project and they are quite knowledgeable of the ecosystem that the project is affecting. We support them fully," he told *The Nation*. "We also recognize that there hasn't been a thorough examination of the effects on the marine life and environment. Hydro-Quebec hasn't really looked at these types of impacts from the La Grande complex."

BY WILL NICHOLLS

MAKING MUSIC BEHIND BARS

A group of native prisoners in Saskatchewan is trying to make sure native youth don't make the same mistakes they made.

In an innovative project, 10 inmates of Saskatchewan's Prince Albert Penitentiary have recorded a 45-minute, 12-track cassette tape of powwow music with a message of hope for young people. The Broken Wing Singers, led by Clem Mitsuing, practice eight to 10 hours a week and have been making powwow music for four years.

With support from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the federal government, the inmates got a music studio, Sweetgrass Records, to bring in a mobile unit to the penitentiary to set up the first live recording session of its kind in Canada.

"I was kind of worried at first," admitted Ted Whitecalf, of Sweetgrass Records of Saskatoon. "I had never been in a place like that before. I didn't know what to expect," he said in a *Windspeaker* article. "It was really an honour to be there and I was grateful to be a part of it."

Said inmate Kevin Sakebow, "The most important thing is to educate the youth not to come here to find their spirituality. Find it out there."

For more info call Sweetgrass at 306-343-7053 or write P.O. Box 23022, Saskatoon, SK, S7J 5H3. —*Nation staff*

NUNAVUT IN NUNAVIK?

If negotiations go well, the Inuit of Nunavik may one day be Canada's fourth territory. "The goal is to achieve something like Nunavut," says Paul Bussieres, coordinator of Makivik Corp.'s self-government talks with the Quebec government.

Although the Inuit have been discussing self-government for years, it was only last May that Quebec appointed Francis Fox, a former Justice Minister under Pierre Trudeau, as its negotiator with the Inuit on self-government. Not much of consequence is expected to happen before the provincial election, expected in August or September. The newly elected government may give Fox a different mandate or may select a new negotiator.

But Bussieres says Quebec appears to be open to Inuit demands for much

BRIEFS CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

greater autonomy. "There seems to be agreement with Quebec," he told *The Nation*. "Right now we have many institutions, like the Kativik Regional Government and the school board. Those institutions are working separately, which creates some problems. Quebec is starting to see the need for rationalization."

The Inuit are also seeking more powers in a wide range of areas like justice, tourism, housing and economic development.

Negotiations are also getting underway on Inuit off-shore land claims. In late June, Ottawa appointed William Thomas Molloy, the man who was Ottawa's negotiator on the Nunavut land claim, as its negotiator with the Inuit of Nunavik. The negotiations are expected to be very complicated, and will settle jurisdiction over the waters and islands in James Bay, Hudson Bay, Ungava Bay and the northeast Labrador coast. The talks will involve Nunavik, the federal government, Nunavut and the Crees. —*Alex Roslin*

No to casino, yes to Norton

Kahnawake Mohawks went to the polls on July 2 and the results were a big surprise to many observers.

Kahnawake voted down a project to build a $154-million casino, but at the same time re-elected the casino's biggest supporter, Joe Norton, as Grand Chief. The vote on the casino was very close with 724 people voting against and 627 for. Joe Norton easily dominated the race for Grand Chief taking 916 votes, against Don Martin (201 votes), Kahn-Tineta Horn (153) and Frank Jacobs (84).

"I am very upset," said one casino supporter in a *La Presse* article. "I thought it would be a real benefit for Kahnawake." He blamed retired Mohawks for voting in a bloc against the casino. "The retired people don't work any more. They don't know any more what it means to be unemployed."

Eastern Door editor Kenneth Deer was surprised that the casino was voted down. "If the casino project is dead, Kahnawake will have to find another way of improving its economy." Deer said many Kahnawake residents were unhappy with Chief Norton's style of governing, which some feel isn't open enough. All three of Chief Norton's opponents in the election for chief were running on platforms that called for a more traditionalist approach to government.

—*Nation staff*

Inuit face housing crunch

The Inuit people are facing a major housing crisis, says the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada.

At least 5,000 new houses are needed to meet the shortfall just in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, says a report from the Inuit Tapirisat. No one knows how many extra houses are needed in northern Labrador, which is the area worst hit by the housing crunch.

Inuit commonly live two and three generations in the same three or four-bedroom bungalow, says the report, submitted to the federal government in May. Overcrowding and poor quality housing contribute to the death rate, infant mortality rate and poor health of

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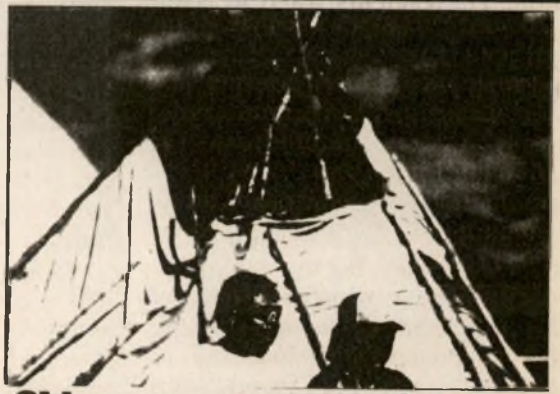

PHOTO BY LUIS EGUREN

Old ones, new ones, fat ones, skinny ones. Whatever you got. We want them.

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Inuit, says the Inuit political body.

The Inuit also have the fastest growing population in Canada of any group and unemployment rates of up to 80 per cent in some communities. The poverty means that many Inuit cannot afford anything but social housing, says an article in *Windspeaker*.

The Inuit Tapirisat's harshest words were directed at the government of Newfoundland, which hasn't even done a study of how bad the housing situation is in Inuit communities. "Labrador Inuit are living in Third World conditions," says the report.

—Nation staff

Innu to sign SM-3 deal

The chief of the Uashat-Maliotenam Innu First Nation, Elie-Jacques Jourdain, has announced he will sign a compensation deal with Hydro-Quebec on the SM-3 hydro-project.

Chief Jourdain refuses to specify exactly when he will sign the agreement, according to an article in *La Presse*. For a few weeks, the Band Council has hesitated to sign the compensation deal because of a referendum on June 13 which showed that the Innu are very divided on the issue. A majority of those in Uashat support the $60-million compensation package, but a majority of those in Maliotenam are opposed.

Chief Jourdain hinted that the vote suggests the two communities should be split into two bands. A majority of Maliotenam residents voted in favour of such a split in a referendum in Oct. 1992. But Chief Jourdain has previously stalled on implementing the split, angering many in Maliotenam.

—Nation staff

Peltier case to be reopened?

Leonard Peltier may still have his day in court. After 18 years of stalling, the Canadian government has agreed to officially reevaluate its 1976 extradition of Peltier to the United States, where he has been imprisoned ever since on murder charges.

Peltier was accused of killing two FBI agents in a standoff at the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota in June 1975. Overwhelming evidence suggests that he did not kill the agents and that the U.S. government's case against Peltier is full of holes.

Peltier fled to Canada where he asked for political asylum. But he was extradited based on evidence provided by the FBI which later proved to be fabricated. The FBI, unable to come up with sufficient evidence to extradite Peltier, turned to a woman with a history of mental illness, Myrtle Poor Bear. Poor Bear was coerced into singing a false affidavit which stated that Peltier was her boyfriend and that she saw him shoot the two agents.

PHOTO BY NEIL DIAMOND

When they were in opposition, dozens of Liberal MPs demanded that the case be reopened, including Montreal-area MP Warren Allmand, a former Solicitor General. Allmand asked Liberal Justice Minister Allan Rock to review the Peltier case in March of this year. Leonard Peltier's supporters are hoping that Ottawa will make a formal diplomatic request to have Peltier returned to Canada. This would increase pressure on U.S. justice authorities to reopen the case.

—Nation staff

Hey, ho, we won't go

Mohawks of Akwesasne say they won't go along if Quebec separates from Canada.

"They can take their own land, but they can't take ours," one Akwesasne Mohawk, Russell Roundpoint, told Canadian Press in July. "We have had enough hard times with Quebec and we're not going to be a part of their separation plans."

Two-thirds of Akwesasne is within Quebec's present borders.

Former Akwesasne Grand Chief Mike Mitchell said Mohawks are prepared to go to the UN to explain how their aboriginal and human rights would be compromised by a forced separation with Quebec.

—Nation staff

Mohawk hassled by the law

Kahn-Tineta Horn can't get a break. Hounded for four years by the courts and the SQ, the Mohawk traditionalist now has to go to court again to defend herself against charges of obstructing and assaulting two SQ officers.

Horn was acquitted of the charges May 25, but the Crown has decided to appeal.

Horn, who ran for Grand Chief in the recent Kahnawake election, was active behind the Mohawk barricades at Kanehsatake in the summer of 1990. Indian Affairs tried unsuccessfully to fire her from her job in the civil service after the Oka Crisis. For a time, Horn also lost custody of her children, and she has been a target of SQ harassment.

The latest charges were laid on January 21 of this year after a dispute with SQ officers just outside the Mohawk Territory of Kahnawake. The officers tried to place Horn under arrest after discovering she had an outstanding parking ticket.

According to a report in *The Eastern Door*, one of the officers grabbed Horn by the arm and twisted her wrists. He received a blow to the face. After a brief scuffle, Horn was finally handcuffed, but not before she managed to kick the other officer in the leg. Horn, 54, claims that later on at the SQ station she was badly beaten and had to be taken to a local hospital.

Horn's lawyer argued that the police acted excessively when they imprisoned her for an unpaid parking ticket. Since she was wrongfully arrested, he argued that Horn was entitled to defend herself. "I had enough money on me to pay the ticket but they refused to take it," Horn told *The Eastern Door*.

—Nation staff

THE PATH OF

Since arriving from James Bay, I have turned over many times in my head all the teachings I've learned. Some of the best lessons were ones I initially fought the most.

My name is Stephane Wuttune. I am 25 and a Plains Cree (my friends always say "plain cree") from the Red Pheasant band area in Saskatchewan. My mother is a French Canadian and I am proud of that side of my heritage as well.

THE HEART IS...

PHOTO BY RODERICK PACHANO

by Stephane Wuttune

In coordination with the Cree School Board, I was hired on a tour that took me from Waskaganish and Waswanipi to Mistissini and Chisasibi. Between April 11 and June 1, I spoke in schools about my experiences growing up with nature and how I learned to communicate with the animals using their own sounds.

For the secondary levels, I incorporated bushlife humour and rather serious teachings given to me by Elders regarding what to expect in coming years and how as a nation we are going to have to cope with change.

To tell you the truth, being a young person and seeing so much confusion and pain amongst our people is almost more than I can take. And as a man I'm not at all ashamed to admit that at times I've had to retire back into my hotel room, light up a braid of sweetgrass and let the tears flow.

When I stood at the top of the immense power dams at LG-1, LG-2, 3 and 4, I felt like a germ beside a beaver dam. Then my eyes riveted towards the power lines and how they made the landscape look like a spider web—a very deadly one I may add. My message to the youth is: do all you can to prevent further destruction of the land and above all trust your Elders. Hydro emits a slow poison, and they're hungry for more.

Just remember not to get caught up in the trap of politics. The real battle will be fought on spiritual levels.

On a lighter note, going to goose camp and trying new foods like beaver, otter and others was awesome! And because I'm in the midst of so much healing myself, getting to go out in the bush and become grounded was exactly what I needed.

For a week and a half, Dianne, her husband and I stayed in camp with her relatives in the Matagami region. We hunted, set nets, watched how to skin beaver, pluck geese and much more. What an experience!

I stayed for roughly five days in Great Whale, in the company of Lisa Petagumskum and her grandparents. We ski-dooed out to camp and there I got the tremendous opportunity to listen to mushom's teachings—after getting a lot of wood cut and a few bagfuls of fresh snow of course.

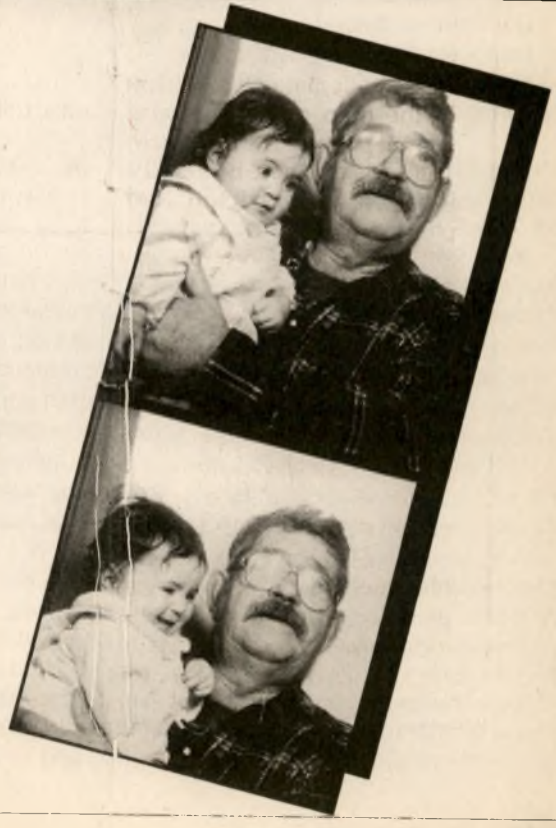
There are so many funny things that happened. I can still hear the roaring laughter of the women as they watched me pluck my first goose and how no matter how hard I tried, the down would still be flying all over the place. It looked like it was snowing in camp that night!

I have a lot of thanks to give. Namely, to Dianne Reid and Janie Pachano, who hired me for the tour. And also to the Elders who were so patient and kind in their teachings. Special thanks as well to the kids whom I've spoken to. You kids may not have realized it, but often I feel I am learning more from you!

And lastly, to the older teens. Learn all that you can. And remember that the power of one who follows the path of the heart is infinitely stronger than thousands who walk worn trails. You are not alone.

Until next time!

This Magnificent Life



by Gilles Moreau

Many know him on the Mistissini reserve. After having worked there for 22 years, he is a familiar face to more than one. Mr. Pierre Le Meur, originally from Bretagne in the west of France, arrived on Canadian soil in 1951. He climbed to the top of the map of Quebec and wound up in Chibougamau in 1956. This is where he found a job as an electrician and plumber for a contractor working in Mistissini. He witnessed the creation of nothing less than a new village.

He installed the first electric plugs and the first water ducts used by the Cree population. The first bath tub and hot water tank were installed at Alphonse Trapper's, who at the time was Pierre Le Meur's helper.

He also remembers assembling two 312 Caterpillar gas generators, which arrived by float plane in detachable pieces that he had to reassemble. Times have changed since then; we can now see roads, electricity and running water. In those days, everything still had to be done, to be built, remembers Pierre Le Meur. He participated in the construction of 48 log houses equipped with bath tubs, toilets and sinks.

He also was around during the construction of the first Hudson Bay store in '57, when John Spiers was the manager. The sheet metal building was equipped with a 48-volt DC generator, which charged glass batteries for current.

Mr. Le Meur never wants to forget these difficult but beautiful years, when he knew courageous and tireless people.

Some names come back to him, like Scottie Stevenson, then an airplane pilot who took him the first time to Mistissini; the Trapper brothers, John, Rupert and Alphonse. Some Innu came to work in the north to help in the development of the community. The administrator-superintendent at the time was Mr. Penney, and the chief supervisor, Mr. John Bourassa. The chief of the band was Smally Petawabano.

He also has a vague memory of a certain nurse named "Nola." Here is a question that maybe someone could answer: What was the full name of the lady? (If you know the answer, could you please communicate with *The Nation*.)

Finally, these 22 years have been a great adventure. He has more than one memory of natives being honest, frank and respectful people. The "savages," he says, don't live in the aboriginal population.

With these memories, he wants to salute all those who were by his side during this magnificent period of his life.

Translated from French by Francine Charland.

PROFILE

MYSTERY AT MAKIVIK

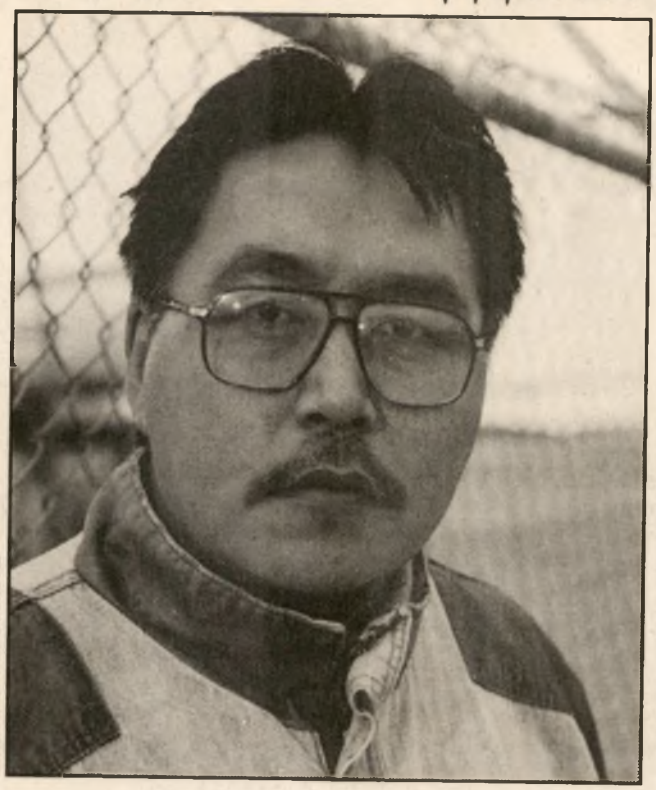


PHOTO BY NEIL DIAMOND

ALMOST FROM the day of Makivik Corp.'s latest election, we at *The Nation* tried to reach the new President, Simeonie Nalukturuk, to interview him. We called his secretaries and assistants nearly every day for two months, only to be told Nalukturuk was always busy, in meetings or on the road.

Who was the relatively unknown new Inuit leader? Would he bring a new direction to Makivik?

Not everyone saw eye-to-eye with Sen. Charlie Watt. But at least it was clear where the previous president of Makivik Corp. stood on the issues. When Watt was rejected by Inuit voters in last spring's election, that changed.

"He's a bit media-shy," Makivik's information officer, Steven Hendrie, said of Nalukturuk. "You're dealing with the Inuit, who tend to be much more low-key than the Crees." Hendrie said the Crees are "media savvy," whereas Nalukturuk has "different priorities."

Below we have reprinted written responses to a list of questions we submitted to Nalukturuk through his secretaries. The more personal questions were left unanswered. We were told to ask these questions of Nalukturuk directly, but four months after his election, still proves to be media-shy.

—Alex Roslin

MYSTERY...

***The Nation*: Congratulations on your election victory. How did you feel when you heard you had won the election?**
Makivik Corp.: Ask SN [Simeonie Nalukturuk]

What was the first thing you did?
Ask SN

Why do you think the Inuit elected you over Charlie Watt?
There was obviously a desire for a change in the style of leadership. It was also clear that the people of Nunavik maintain their support for the principle direction and policies of Makivik.

What is the biggest challenge that you now face?
The biggest challenge will be to achieve self-government for the people of Nunavik. This means not only reaching agreements that will provide us with the capacity to be self-governing, but also ensuring that we have the economic base to provide a future for ourselves and our children. At the same time we are very conscious of the need to protect our environment and to strengthen our culture.

"Let me say clearly that we have not decided if we are for or against the project."

Zebedee Nungak said in the recent press conference you held with Hydro-Quebec that you would bring mostly a change in style. What changes would you like to make?
Ask SN

What policies of Charlie Watt's do you agree with that you would continue to pursue? And what policies do you disagree with that you would change?
Policies are approved by the members of Makivik's Board of Directors. There is one member for each community. As President, I am more of an executor than a policy-maker. This being said, I will continue with the main ongoing files, which involve continuing negotiations on self-government with Quebec, the two sets of negotiations regarding the proposed Great Whale project, the implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, and our off-shore claim negotiations.

You got a lot of support from Puvirnituq. How will you make this community feel that it is getting all the benefits it feels it should be getting out of Makivik?
I received good support from Puvirnituq as well as from many other communities. Puvirnituq will not be getting preferential treatment over the other communities. However, I have met with the representatives of that community and discussions regarding relations between Makivik and Puvirnituq will continue.

How hard are you finding it dealing with Makivik's bureaucracy? Do you plan any changes? There were complaints during the election that there isn't enough debate. How will you address this?
I am sure it is not more difficult to deal with Makivik's bureaucracy than it was to deal with the Kativik Regional Government, or any other bureaucracy of that size. No major changes are planned and the population will have opportunities to debate any issues. Structures are in place to do just that, and I will be in continuous contact with the various communities. We hold regular board meetings either by telephone conference call, or in person with members from all communities, and from time to time we hold all-organization meetings which bring together the members of the Makivik Board, and elected leaders of all Nunavik organizations.

Some Crees think that under Charlie Watt, Makivik didn't work very closely with the Crees. Do you think any changes are necessary in Inuit-Cree relations?
The relations between the Inuit and the Cree are generations old, and they are based on mutual respect and the defense of mutual interests. We do not always have the same approach to the issues we have in common. But our long-term objectives remain the same. Both the Inuit and the Cree demand the right to determine their own future and to participate fully in decisions that affect them and their region of the world. We are obviously stronger if we work together, and that will not change.

Do you think Hydro-Quebec could go ahead with the Great Whale project without a deal with the Inuit and the Crees? Is this not a violation of indigenous rights?
There are strictly legal rights involved, as well as basic human rights. Neither Hydro-Quebec nor any other government organization can ignore either in making its plans for the future. We have chosen to continue the process of negotiation with Hydro-Quebec on the question of Great Whale. Let me say clearly that we have not decided if we are for or against the project. We will evaluate all aspects of the project and will come to a decision. We expect that this decision will be respected.

What do you say to Inuit and Crees who are disappointed that Makivik signed the Agreement-in-Principle with Hydro-Quebec?
I do not know of many Inuit who are disappointed over the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle. The people of Nunavik accept that signing the agreement gives us the capacity to judge for ourselves all the economic and social impacts Great Whale could have on our people and our region. We have not closed any doors, nor have we in any way compromised our right to make a final decision on this project. The Inuit are united in believing it is better to be at the table than away from it.

What objectives does Makivik have in the talks on self-determination with Quebec?
In the Nunavik Constitution, published in January 1991, we stated the following objectives: 1) Assure protection and development of cultures and traditions in Nunavik; 2) Unite and integrate our communities, regional institutions and people; 3) Maintain, protect and develop the use of all official languages in Nunavik; 4) Protect the environment in and surrounding Nunavik to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations; 5) Encourage economic development; 6) Promote more employment; 7) Provide support and develop education and training for residents of Nunavik; 8) Achieve adequate living standards in all communities and equitable distribution benefits; 9) Encourage and support local decision-making in our communities and the recog-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Mystery at Makivik...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

nition of tradition and custom of Inuit in such decision-making; 10) Secure the necessary funds and revenues for Nunavik to ensure good and reliable government; 11) Maintain and encourage relations with other Inuit and other peoples; 12) Develop an equitable balance between collective and individual rights; 13) Protect the rights and welcome the contributions of all residents of Nunavik; 14) Promote and implement all aboriginal and treaty rights of native peoples in Nunavik; 15) Create an accountable, efficient, fair, reliable and effective government within Nunavik.

Are the Inuit of Nunavik worried about Quebec sovereignty? Do the Inuit have the same right of self-determination as Quebec?

The decisions that will be taken by the people of Quebec over the next several years will be taken through a democratic process. Any decision about self-determination would lead to negotiations with all the parties concerned, including the aboriginal people of the province. The Inuit of Nunavik would of course have definite views and principles to put on the table if this occurred.

How are talks progressing with Quebec on commercialization of food?

Makivik signed a commercialization agreement with Quebec on November 11, 1993. The Naskapi also signed the agreement, and the Crees have since signed it as well. So talks with Quebec are quite favourable. The project of commercializing country foods is worthy of a story in its own right; you could write book on it. Suffice it to say at this point that Makivik has invested considerable sums of money, time and effort to develop a new organization called Nunavik Arctic Foods Inc., and has in the past year developed a five-year business plan and overseen the construction of community processing centres in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Quaqtaq and Umiujaq. Pilot projects on the harvesting and processing of caribou, seal and ptarmigan have been done in these communities. It is a promising venture and will capitalize on the skills of hunters in Nunavik.

Makivik has complained of unfair taxation of the Inuit of Nunavik. In what ways are they overtaxed and what is being done to change this?

This is also a topic worthy of a book-sized answer. You may remember that when the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced, Inuit actually went to Ottawa in sizable numbers to demonstrate on Parliament Hill against the introduction of the tax. The reason is quite simple: We are essentially an island, with no road links to the rest of the country. All the perishable foodstuff we consume arrives in all the Nunavik communities by air freight, which is a taxable service unde the GST. So the food we eat ends up being taxed, and is considerably more expensive than elsewhere. We have argued our case in front of parliamentary standing committees on finances (looking into alternatives to the GST).

We have also formed a taxation working group with members of various ministries at the provincial government level in an effort to gain more favourable taxation status. We are arguing for similar taxation treatment as the residents of the Magdeleine Islands (an isolated region cut off from the rest of the province due to the lack of road connections). This taxation working group has been established for more than a year now.

Finally, regarding taxation matters, about two years ago when former federal finance minister Michael Wilson made changes to the Income Tax Act, it became necessary for all citizens to fill out their income tax form if they were to be assured of receiving certain social benefits. Previously, these benefits were paid as a matter of course. The result of this change in Nunavik was that people who had never filled out income tax forms were suddenly faced with its annual burden. As you must know, it is a burden for most Canadians to accomplish. In Nunavik, it was virtually impossible as the forms are only available in French or English, and there are few H&R Blocks in Nunavik (none actually).

So the problem was that residents of Nunavik would have been essentially cut off from receiving these benefits which they were entitled to. Makivik created the income tax project to assist Nunavik residents to fill out their income tax forms. The project started two years ago. We have worked with Revenue Canada in order to obtain permission from residents to collect tax refunds retroactively to 1986. We have had excellent results with this project, and have been able to return over $1.5 million to Nunavik residents in the process. For 1993, Makivik oversaw the training of community tax preparers using IBM-compatible computers in each community to process the income tax forms for Nunavik residents. We anticipate similar refunds for Nunavik residents.

The situation of the High Arctic exiles remains unresolved due to stalling by Ottawa. If you could speak to the official who dreamed up this idea, what would you tell him?

The basic problem with the issue of the High Arctic exiles was that the Inuit people involved were never given the simple respect of being consulted on their own fate. Even the government has admitted that they were treated in a way that was paternalistic and insensitive. Not being consulted contributed to the tremendous physical suffering these people had to endure in the first years of their exile. Makivik has consistently maintained that the High Arctic exiles must receive an apology from the government for the way they were treated, and they should receive fair compensaiton. Moreover, their contribution in establishing Canada's sovereignty in the High Arctic islands should be recognized.

Makivik's 92-93 annual report says Inuit face "extreme hardship" in terms of high unemployment and high food costs. What do you plan to do about this?

The problems we face in Nunavik, including unemployment and the high costs of transportation, are the same as those faced by all northern peoples. Achieving self-government will certainly be a major step in enabling us to shape policies and programs that meet the specific needs of our communities. In addition to this, we recognize the need to acquire a reliable economic base upon which to build a future for our people. Some of this will occur through private-sector economic development based on natural resources and the provision of services to our communities. There are opportunities for resource development and other economic activities to provide stable employment. The challenge will be to exploit those opportunities while establishing rules and regulations that ensure we are protecting our environment and our culture. That is why self-government is so closely tied to our economic objectives.

PHOTO BY JAMES BOBBISH

Minnie Rabbitskin Bullfrog

Chisasibi

I can remember,
when we were children,
that we would argue over the silliest things,
but I can also remember
that you were always there to support me...
... and it's nice to know that even today
I can always count on your support,
And that means much more to me
than you could ever know.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!
July 14th

With love,
Brother Roderick Rabbitskin,
Montreal

Unforgettable trip to Mistissini

by Sophie Gagnon

On February 28 a group of students and I, led by our two teachers, Patrick Monturo and Nil Gagne, started our journey from Chicoutimi to the reserve of Mistissini.

For nearly a week we experienced everyday life with two native families. We stayed in beautiful tipis surrounded by the lovely winter landscape of the Great Mistissini Lake. At the time I thought there is no better place on earth to live.

Each of us had to study a part of your culture, customs and habits. We were shown how to net fish, trap, tan the moose skin and cook the beaver. Your ancestral culture is fascinating. We also saw how you now work along with the white system. The band council was very kind to show us how they deal with the community and the government.

The wrong conceptions that the white culture taught us fell apart. In fact, I saw and met friendly people smiling, caring, true and carrying a great wisdom.

My friends and I will never forget the night when we watched the Northern Lights, dressed in green, dancing in the sky. Plus the last evening when we danced all together to the song of the violins.

Our high-speed living style slowly broke down to make place for your day-to-day living style. Your notion of time was completely new for us and appeared to me as a revelation to give time to the spirit to relax and meditate. As we closed our eyes, quietly sitting in the tipi and listening to the fire cracking slowly, we could feel the spruce aroma vitalizing all our bodies.

Afterward, we found it very difficult to settle back into our own environment. No matter what the majority of the people think, this won't ever change what we learned and built in your contact. We are working to break down the prejudices in our circle.

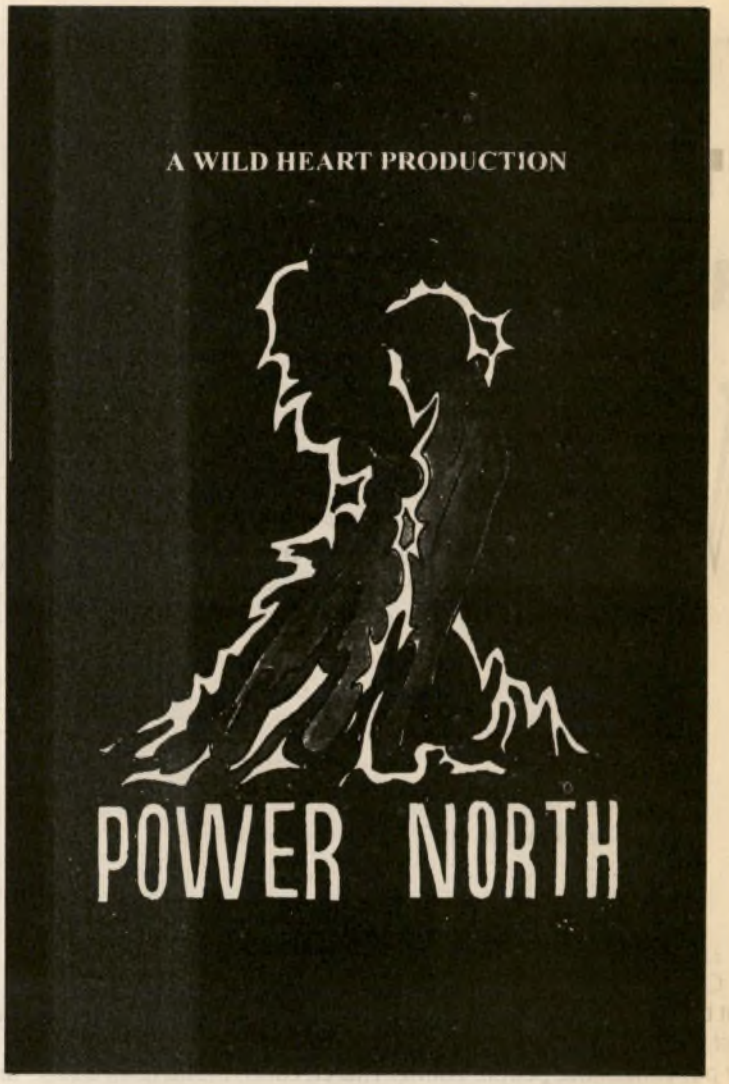
On behalf of my friends and teachers, I wish to thank very much the Mistissini community for the time, knowledge and wisdom they shared with all of us during this unforgettable stay. Life is not the same for us today. Thank you again and good luck!

Turn on *Power Of The North*

William Nicholls

Finally, a film that gives you the voices of the Cree elders, the people of Quebec, the rhetoric of the politicians, the Crees and non-Crees, the desire of Hydro-Quebec to build the Great Whale project and a chance to listen to Cree youth express their concerns about an uncertain future.

More or less, that is *Power Of The North* in a nutshell. But what meat this nutshell contains.



It is the battle for who controls the power of the North, with Cree First Nations pitted against megacorp Hydro-Quebec. The arena is all of Quebec, the United States and Europe.

Power Of The North is a new film put out by Montreal-based Wildheart Productions. It will be shown on TV in the U.S., Canada and beyond, and will soon be available in your community. Two years in the making, it is a no-holds-barred look at all the players in this game letting you see both sides' agenda.

My favourite music pick of *Power*'s mindblowing soundtrack was the *Fish Song*. With a sense of darkish humour, it goes over Hydro's positions and the problem of mercury poisoning of the fish. It should be sent out as a music video so everyone can enjoy it! Also Metallica, Buffy Ste-Marie, Talking Heads, Wagner and Kashkun add to this heavy soundtrack. The Metallica song, *Nothing Else Matters*, is actually pretty amazing considering that it's the first time this band has let one of its songs be used in a movie, despite many requests.

I swear I got chills running up and down my back.

When Wagner played during one of the Hydro-Quebec scenes, even as a Cree who opposes the project, I could understand. I could understand the sense of grandeur that Hydro felt with its accomplishments in the Far North. It shows the positions of the pro crowd as they see them.

It made me angry when Richard Le Hir questioned whether or not natives have anything to contribute or teach him. Then he went on to question whether aboriginal peoples even had civilizations before the Europeans came along.

When Buffy did the *Starwalker* song during the Cree sequence, I swear I got chills running up and down my back. That woman's voice just reaches in, grabs hold of something and pulls.

The words of former Cree Chief Robbie Dick and his wife Elizabeth still haunt me. They were powerful and direct. There was nothing hidden, the Cree lifestyle comes through. I felt the pride and resolve to continue the battle to save the Great Whale River.

The film made me feel a lot of emotions in less than an hour. I was initially filmed in the movie too, but edited into never never-land, so don't worry about having to see me.

I congratulate Wildheart Productions on coming up with a film that leaves you breathless until the end. I congratulate everyone who worked on the film, including *Nation* staff members Catherine Bainbridge, Katerina Cizek and Ernie Webb, for making something you can be proud of. *Power Of The North* tells it all.

WHAPMAGOOSTUI REAFFIRMS ITS RESOLVE

by Will Nicholls

PHOTO BY LUIS EGUREN

When Matthew Mukash got the news that he had been elected to another term as Chief, he was waiting by the Great Whale River. The continuation of the fight against Hydro-Quebec's proposed Great Whale River Project was one of his main platforms in seeking re-election.

The election saw more people turning out than usual to vote, with over 80 per cent voting for him. The first thing Matthew did was hurry home to tell his wife the good news. He was too late; the phone beat him to it. The phone would ring on until two in the morning with congratulations.

***The Nation*: How did feel when you won?**

Chief Matthew Mukash: It wasn't winning that surprised me but the number of people who turned out to vote. Usually in the past not very many people turned out to. Sometimes we had barely 50 per cent of the people voting. This election, though, we had over 75 per cent. I'm happy when you see this many people who are concerned about the community's future.

What is the biggest challenge you face?

Well, I think the message here is that the people want to continue to fight against the Great Whale Project. The main parts of my platform were the fight and also that I would work with the other leaders to protect Cree rights. There is the question of possible Quebec separation that we have to address. The message I and the community bring to the table is that we will continue to fight for the rights of the Cree Nation.

Do you think Hydro-Quebec could go ahead and build the Great Whale Project without the agreement of both the Inuit and the Crees?

No, I don't think they can. The main impacts will be on Cree Territory. It is within the boundaries of where the traplines are. I don't think they can go ahead without the consent of the Crees. I can't speak on behalf of the other nations involved, but I feel they have a right of veto also.

Were you disappointed when Makivik signed the agreement in principle with Hydro-Quebec?

It was expected. We knew it was coming. The fact is there is over a year to discuss the final agreement. With what is going to happen in the next year with the provincial elections and the question of Quebec sovereignty, the true colours of Quebec are coming out, the colours of the Parti Quebecois. Already I'm hearing that the Inuit are not to crazy about the PQ. That might have an impact on the final decision of the Inuit.

Do you believe that the Crees and the Inuit have the same right to self-determination as Quebec does?

Yes, I do. I think the Crees and the Inuit as aboriginal people were always recognized as nations under international law, by the Quebec National Assembly and the federal government of Canada. There is no doubt we have the same rights.

What about the possibility of Quebec seceding? Is your band council preparing to deal with that possibility?

First of all we have to hear from the Grand Council of the Crees and how they view it. There would have to be a lot of consultation. The Cree communities would have to be consulted before anyone can decide on this issue. In this community, we are talking about it and a lot of people are saying we should go all the way to try to protect our rights.

How do you see your community progressing in the next while?

Well, we can't always count on handouts from the government. People here, we've decide we are going to revive our culture. And we are going to use a lot of the values that have been handed down from generation to generation—teaching people and learning how to be independent again. You know out here there is still a lot of game and a lot of resources that our ancestors depended upon; they are out here, right at our doorstep. And a lot of people are talking about it and I think you are going to see a lot people going back to the land. That's been happening over the last five years. More and more people are going back to the land. And there's also a movement on spiritual development. Understanding where our place is in nature—God's creation. So that's a big step.

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GRAND COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

GCCO

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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
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THE GREAT WHALE REVIEW PROCESS: WHERE WE'RE AT

In December 1991, the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) (GCCQ), Makivik Corporation (representing the Inuit of Northern Quebec), the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is basically an agreement by the various groups on the role and terms for an assessment of the Great Whale Project. It is the how, what, where, when and why for an assessment of the project. This MOU put in motion the actual process of assessing the Great Whale River Project.

The first stage, prior to any assessment, allows concerned groups and individuals to speak out on the potential impacts on people and the environment. These people are often those who possess first-hand knowledge of what those impacts are likely to be. Hearings were held between January and March 1992, where both the Crees and the Inuit expressed similar fears about the effects of development on their communities.

The hearings resulted in guidelines, a set of instructions, on the information that Hydro-Quebec must provide to allow the five committees to determine whether Hydro-Quebec should be allowed to build the Great Whale River Project. There is Cree representation on two of these five committees, and two other committees have Inuit representation. The Federal Review Panel does **NOT** have aboriginal representation; as well, the Sanikiluaq Inuit are not represented on any committee. The five committees are sharing information and hope to provide joint recommendations.

The guidelines order Hydro-Quebec to produce information regarding the economic, environmental, justification and sociological aspects of this project. It must also examine the impacts of the various projects that empty out into Hudson and James bays, in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, not as individual projects but as having cumulative impacts. Finally, the guidelines make it clear that the native perspective in the assessment should be prioritized. On August 31, 1994, Hydro-Quebec produced its answer to those questions put forth by the committees.

The second stage of the assessment process is determining whether the "Great Whale Project Feasibility Study" provides the necessary information to properly assess the impacts of the Great Whale Project. This stage called "conformity review" ends at or around July 27, 1994. The GCCQ, Cree entities, environmental groups and others wanting to make a statement on whether the feasibility study meets the criteria set forth by the guidelines have until that date to submit a response. The GCCQ has made it clear that the present study by Hydro-Quebec fails to meet the most basic of criteria asked of the utility by the guidelines. Other organizations and groups have expressed similar concern.

It is not clear what position the five committees will take on conformity. The recommendations of the various groups, including the GCCQ, will help the committees in their assessment. If the committees judge that Hydro-Quebec's study is inadequate, they may ask for further clarifications or for the Hydro-Quebec report to be rewritten. Any new document from Hydro-Quebec would have to be checked for conformity with the guidelines.

The GCCQ, through its members on the various review committees, attempts to ensure that the necessary steps to ensure a proper review are followed. However, this review process alone is not going to stop the Great Whale River Project.

The resistance to the Great Whale River Project has many implications. For the first time a mega-development is being assessed before being built and the Crees have some input in the process. This has implications for other development projects. The Cree Nation has to determine what and how it will deal with mining operations, forestry and of course hydro development.

To date, Quebec has refused to allow public hearings for forestry roads and clearcutting, as well as for mines and for projects. The environmental disasters caused by such projects are hidden by Quebec from public view. As a result, the habitat for moose is being destroyed and the Cree hunting lands ruined by systematic environmental racism practiced by Quebec's government.

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Chisasibi Invitational Softball Tournament

June 30 - July 3

PHOTO BY NEIL DIAMOND

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Men's Category

Division A
Chisasibi Nighthawks
Wemindji
Fort George Islanders
Whapmagoostui Tommy Hawks

Division B
SEBJ (LG1)
Chisasibi Comets
Whapmagoostui Braves
Chisasibi Jays

Women's Category

Chisasibi Blue Jays
Chisasibi Sharks
Chisasibi Sluggers
Pikogan
Whapmagoostui Eagles

RESULTS

	Thurs., June 30
M	F.G. Islanders 4 vs. Chisasibi Jays 8
W	Sluggers 7 vs. Blue Jays 11
M	Nighthawks 8 vs. Comets 7
W	Sharks 6 vs. Eagles 14
	Firday, July 1
M	Tommy Hawks 10 vs. Chisasibi Jays 8
M	Comets 8 vs. F.G. Islanders 8
W	Blue Jays 10 vs. Sharks 8
W	Eagles 16 vs. Sluggers 3
W	Pikogan 2 vs. Sharks 12
M	Nighthawks 7 vs. Whap. Braves 0
W	Blue Jays 18 vs. Eagles 14
M	Comets 5 vs. Wemindji 4
M	Chis. Jays 9 vs. Nighthawks 12
W	Pikogan 9 vs. Sluggers 20
M	Wemindji 5 vs. SEBJ (LG1) 11
M	Tommy Hawks 7 vs. Braves 11
	Sat., July 2
M	Wemindji 4 vs. Whap. Braves 5
W	Pikogan 4 vs. Blue Jays 14
M	Sluggers 8 vs. Sharks 11
M	Nighthawks 5 vs. SEBJ 5
M	Tommy Hawks 5 vs. Comets 5
W	Pikogan 5 vs. Eagles 15
M	Wemindji 9 vs. Jays 4
M	F.G. Islanders 0 vs. SEBJ 10
M	Tommy Hawks 1 vs. SEBJ 9
M	F.G. Islanders 4 vs. Braves 6

PLAYOFFS

PHOTO BY NEIL DIAMOND

Sun., July 3

QUARTERFINALS (Men)

M F.G. Islanders 4 vs. Nighthawks 6
M Comets 2 vs. Braves 9
M Wemindji 6 vs. Tommy Hawks 1
M Chisasibi Jays 6 vs. SEBJ 7

SEMIFINALS

W Sluggers 4 vs. Blue Jays 10
W Sharks 10 vs. Eagles 15
M Nighthawks 7 vs. Wemindji 9
M Braves 3 vs. SEBJ 11

FINALS

W Blue Jays 16 vs. Eagles 11
M Wemindji 13 vs. SEBJ 15

Matthew Mukash, cont'd...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Does your community economics include eco-tourism, like white water rafting and stuff like that?

There is already a white water rafting enterprise set up at the local level. When comes down to economic development we haven't decided, we're studying some possibilities—tourism and so forth. But we are also examining the impacts of those industries on other aboriginal people.

Before we go anywhere, first we have to understand what our culture is all about. There's a lot of values that have been lost over a couple of centuries. People here are talking about reviving those cultural values and making a living out on the land. If a person cannot find a job to support their family in town, there is no reason why they can't go out their on the land and do as other Cree people do here.

When you talk of the spiritual development and cultural revival, will these be topics for this year's Cree Nation Gathering in August?

I've already talked about it with other leaders, some of the other chiefs. There is a lot of what I think is confusion—confusion within the Cree Nation on spirituality. The Pentecostals are saying our way is the only way. The Anglicans are saying something else, the Catholics are saying something else.

Those who follow native spirituality seem to understand what spirituality is all about. And I find that the traditional spirituality is more open-minded. Like we're more open to people, people's ideas on spirituality.

What I think, for me, is that if you want to understand where your place is in the world today, you have to understand first who are you, where you came from. What is your relationship with God—the Creator and his Creation.

I think a lot of native people today have lost that and that's how come we're all in this mess in the communities—a lot of alcoholism, abuse and all that. But for us, you know the way is to understand first our relationship with the Creator.

That's what we are doing. That's the agenda for the new council, to explore these things.

Will this be in consultation with the Elders who remember those traditions?

Over the last two years there has been some research done on the knowledge of the Elders. There's a lot of their ideas on record. We've taken interviews and transcribed some of those. But we know you just can't do that; you have to go out there. You have to experience what life is all about in the bush to fully understand it. The problem we face today is the impact of living in an organized community. The characteristics of the community don't allow teaching traditional knowledge.

Is there anything else you want to add?

Yes, we at Whapmagoostui are really serious in continuing to fight the project. Most Crees are aware of the project. There's so much, I don't know, people have fear about this whole thing. When you hear talk about Quebec separation and what members of the Parti Quebecois are saying. They're saying they are going to use the army and the police to control the aboriginal peoples in Quebec if they refuse the idea of Quebec separatism. It's kind of scary for the people here, so they're worried. But we'll do the best we can.

WHY WE'RE AGAINST SM-3

by Marc Drouin

On February 24, three days after a big loss for the Liberal Party in a provincial by-election in the riding of Bonaventure, Premier Johnson gave the green light to the Sainte-Marguerite-3 hydro-project on the North Shore of the St-Lawrence River. Earlier that day, Hydro-Quebec announced that its energy demand forecasts had actually decreased from 2.2 per cent to 0.5 per cent in the past year, and that further decreases were expected in the future.

Two years ago, the Solidarity Group With Native People greeted delegates of the Innu Coalition For Nitassinan, who had walked 1,100 km from their community located just east of Sept-Iles all the way to Montreal. Together with 300 supporters, we walked the last mile to Hydro-Quebec headquarters. The Coalition's message: "No to SM-3 and No to the further violation of Innu territorial rights."

Then in June 1993, the provincial Environmental Hearings Board (known as BAPE) ruled against the project and the diversion of two large rivers in a nearby watershed. The project's short-term necessity was also questioned by Hydro's own engineers in November 1993 because of energy surpluses in Quebec and the saturation of energy markets in the U.S.

A pro-SM-3 coalition from the North Shore literally buried the BAPE's 450-page report on the banks of the Sainte-Marguerite River with a bulldozer after it was made public. The municipal Environmental Protection Corporation in Sept-Iles, which had opposed the river diversions, was muzzled when city hall threatened to cut its annual budget of $55,000. And on February 4 of this year, exactly one year after public hearings on the SM-3 project opened in Sept-Iles, the Johnson government demoted the author of the BAPE report and vice-president of that organization, Andre Delisle.

What's important for us to remember as non-native Quebecers is the fact that no one has ever elected M. Johnson to be premier, not even members of his own party. We've certainly never voted for SM-3. And despite widespread opposition, the $3-billion project was given the go-ahead. After an intense 10-year period of construction, 20 full-time workers will run the SM-3 complex for its expected life-span of 50 years.

The New York Power Authority won't be buying any of SM-3's 820 megawatts. And in September of last year Vermont's largest electric utility, the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, announced that it was selling back—at a loss—75 of the 77 megawatts of power it was buying from Hydro-Quebec because of energy surpluses. On the world aluminum market, there's a 15-per-cent annual surplus which equals an overproduction of 1.5 to 2 million tons every year. Will Hydro-Quebec have to sign more secret contracts to sell its excess energy at a loss and add to the $2.9-billion deficit these contracts will incur between now and the year 2010?

As we continue to soak up the losses, watch basic infrastructures in Quebec erode and watch Hydro's debt break the $34-billion mark, we can well imagine Liberal Party coffers fill up in this pre-election period in Quebec. Mega-builders and engineering firms in Quebec will be grateful for SM-3 which will provide them with enough contracts to tide them over until Great Whale gets some kind of go-ahead. And they'll probably thank M. Johnson generously for his understanding. Instead of cutting welfare, health care, day-care and education, M. Johnson should be cutting the Liberal government's welfare policy for private corporations.

But in the meantime, 12 per cent of the adult population in the Innu community of Mani-Utenam has gone to jail in the last year and a half, and 41 people went back to court in June for having peacefully protested the SM-3 project and the pro-SM-3 Innu Takuaikan Uashat mak Mani-Utenam Band Council.

In December 1992, the Band Council obtained a Quebec Superior Court injunction against all protests in Mani-Utenam. In January of 1993, the injunction became permanent for a period of 30 years. More protests against SM-3 are expected and the Solidarity Group With Native People will continue to organize in Montreal for solidarity with the Coalition For Nitassinan and the traditionalist Innu Council of Mani-Utenam, which has literally been outlawed by the local powers that be in that community.

We still have much to learn from the Innu in their struggle against SM-3, and we'll walk that extra mile to do so.

Marc Drouin is a member of the Solidarity Group With Native People in Montreal (Regroupement de solidarite avec les autochtones).

PHOTO BY NEIL DIAMOND

"We still have much to learn from the Innu in their struggle against SM-3."

CLASSIFIEDS

101-BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Sheldon Gray (78) who will be celebrating his birthday on July 6. Sure wish I could be there! Fr: Love always

Happy 1st Birthday (July 9, 1994) to our wonderful son, Alex MacDonald. Your beautiful smile makes our day everyday. Love always Mommy & Daddy.

Special Birthday Greetings going out to a wonderful mother and Grandmother, Eliza Webb. Love always Sandra, Mark & Alex.

Happy 2nd Birthday to Tyson George. Love your godparents Mark & Sandra.

Birthday Greetings to Sherry-Ann Tomatuk (July 11). From: Shawna, Sheldon, Katherine, Richard & Kenneth.

Happy Birthday to Benjamin Hughboy who will be 3 years old on July 6. Love Mom, Dad, Dale, Kerri, Eugene and Bertha.

Happy Birthday to our daughter, Sherry-Ann Tomatuk of Eastmain, who will be 6 yrs old on July 11. With lots of love, mom, Gloria & dad Johnny.

Happy Birthday to Grandma Minnie on July 11 (Mist.) We love you! From: Kenny, Noreen and Baby Vanessa Neeposh. oxoxo

Mnohaya lita, Phylype. Shchob Boh tobi dav shchastya i zdorovya. Tviy brat, Aleksander.

Happy Birthday to: Lorna on July 2, Bella on July 6, Hattie on July 22. From Rene, Mary and Renee and Amelia Dixon, xxoo. From Ouje-Bougoumou.

Happy Birthday to my mother, Hattie Cheezo of Eastmain, who will be 77 yrs old on July 7. Love always, Gloria.

Happy First Birthday, Colin M.J. Waaseskuun Greczkowski. For the past year you have given us a wonderfully new perspective on life, filled with love and discovery. Love, Mommy, Daddy & Nika-Girl.

Happy Birthday to my wonderful sister Louise (June 20). Have a wonderful birthday that you so much deserve. With Love from Ouje-Bougoumou, Cynthia, Tonya, Dalton and Heather.

Happy 2nd Birthday to our sweet boy Dalton James (June 24) from Ouje-Bougoumou. With lots of love, from mommy, daddy, Tonya and Heather.

102-WEDDINGS

Lots of love and good fortune to Catherine and Ernie, tying the knot July 29. You deserve all the happiness the Creator can give. Have lot of babies-the Nationites.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 3rd Anniversary to Jeannie & Bill. Love from your friends & next door neighbours.

104-GRADUATIONS

Congratulations to my nephew Philip Swallow and neice Deborah Wap and Jane Jolly graduating from high school in Nemaska on June 22. We are very proud of you. May you continue to reach the goals you have set for yourselves. Love your aunt Yvonne and Lawrence Neeposh & family.

Congratulations to Charlie B. Smith (Charles) who graduated on June 17 in Mistissini. Best wishes! Friends: Melissa & Darlene.

105-OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Robert Monias, dearly beloved husband of Eleanor. Bob left us on May 16, 1994 at the age of 51 years at Chisasibi, Quebec. Bob was born and raised at St. Theresa Point, MB. He was a dedicated family man who will be remembered for his gentleness and sense of humour. (See Poem, p. 26)

the Nation's CLASSIFIEDS ORDER FORM

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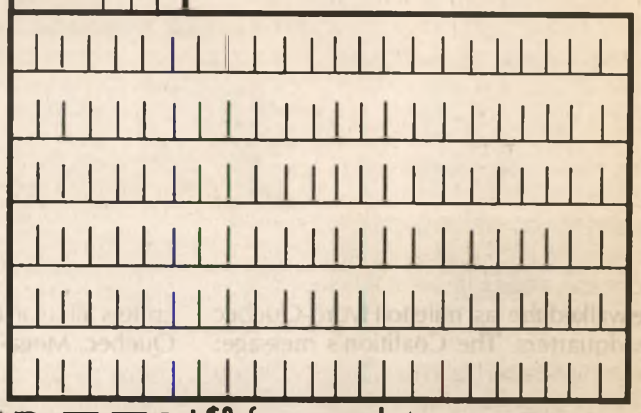

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The Nation Calendar

Cree Trappers Assn Annual Assembly is in late July (date not yet decided). Info: 819-824-1433.

The Mistissini First Nation is holding its Mistissini Cree Nation Gathering Aug. 8-12. Info: 418-923-3461.

The Eastmain First Nation is holding its Annual General Assembly Aug. 22-26. Info: 819-977-0211.

The Centre Indien Cri de Chibougamau is holding its 13th annual Indian Day on July 23, a day-long series of activities, including a native feast. Info: Effie Mark at 418-748-7667.

Check *The Nation*'s new events calendar every issue for happenings in your community and beyond. If you have an event you'd like to publicize for free, send us the information as early as you can. Include a phone number.

An international conference on "Sustainable Development: Balance and Equity" will be held in Montreal from Sept. 4 to 9. The conference is organized by the Multidisciplinary Exchange Network for the Environment and Development. To register, write to P.O. Box 8888, succ. Centre-Ville Montreal, H3C 3P8 or fax: 514-987-6853. The last day to register is July 15.

Driftpile PowWow Society presents its 6th annual powwow in Driftpile, Alberta. Info: 403-849-4943 or 403-355-3780.

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation presents "Schemitzun '94," its third annual feast of green corn and dance, Sept. 15-18 at the Hartford Civic Centre, in Connecticut. $500,000 in prizes. Info: 1-800-203-CORN.

Learn about Geographic Information SYstems for Native Lands Management Sept. 18-24 at a course by the Banff Centre for Management. Info: 403-762-6133.

OBITUARY

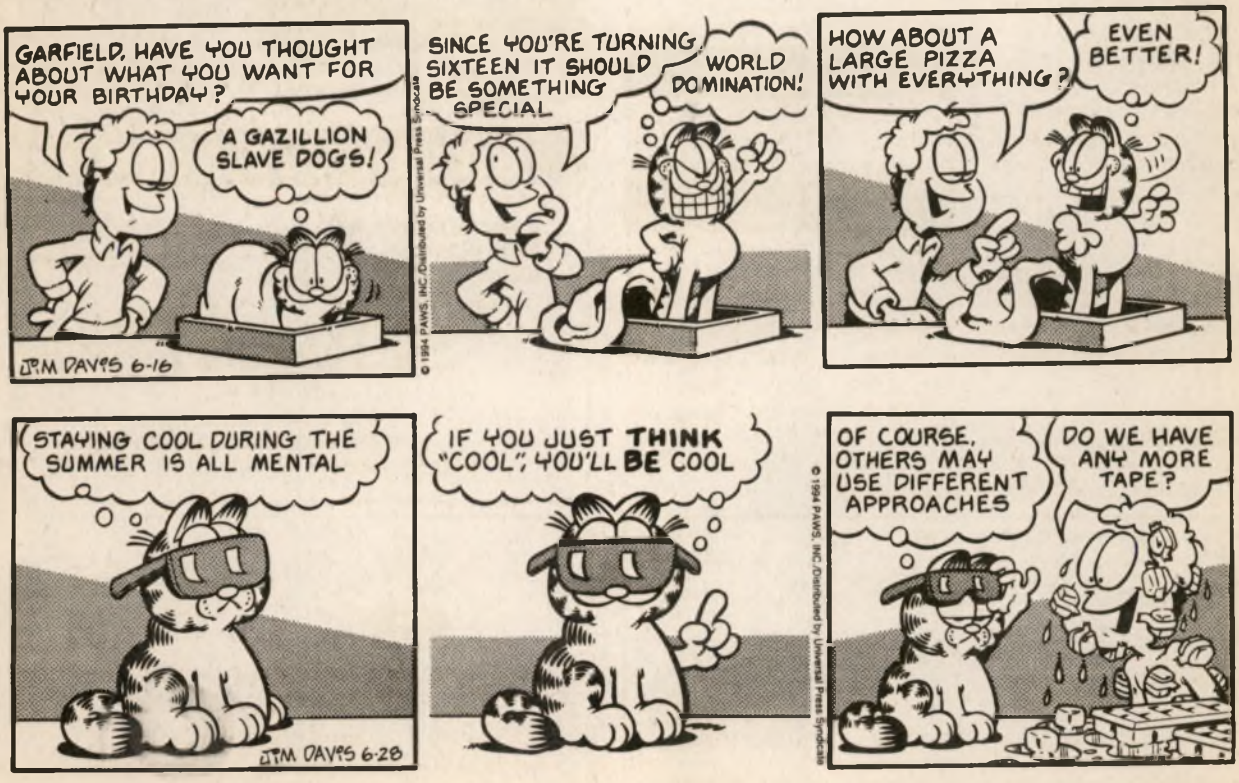
Bob Monias

Bob, you were a husband to your wife.
Bob, you were a father to your children.
Bob, you were a supporter for the education of young couples and youth themselves.
Bob, you were a faightful friend to all of us.
When you left us from this world, we felt alone and in despair.
But now, Bob we feel happy and glad to be with your family.
Bob, your family has given much happiness, especially your wife Eleanor.
Bob, you fully understood our community problems, especially the social impacts we faced after the move from Fort George Island to Chisasibi.
Bob, we really appreciate what you did for us (education). And we will never forget you.
Bob, the good memories you left behind are always going to stay with us as long as Chisasibi exists.
Bob, Chisasibi misses you tremendously, and your friendship which you left behind is treasures like a precious gift.
Bob, Chisasibi will always remember you.

by Kathleen Bearskin

COMICS

Garfield ® by Jim Davis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DO WE HAVE ANY MORE TAPE?
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In order to preserve and protect fish habitats, the Québec Branch of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has a great need for a wide variety of scientific facts and information. These essential statistics are obtained through the Regional Science Branch, more precisely from the Maurice Lamontagne Institute (MLI).

The Regional Science Branch includes the Fisheries Science, Marine Environmental Science and Hydrography Branches. Specialists from these disciplines constantly survey the St. Lawrence River, James Bay, Hudson`s Bay, Ungava Bay as well as the Fox Basin and the Hudson Straight.

The main task of the Fisheries Science Branch is to study the interaction between different species and their habitats, as well as the factors influencing the growth of marine organisms, fish and marine mammals. Besides its aquaculture research activities, the Branch also manages a fish parasite study-centre.

The Marine Environmental Science Branch, for its part, studies the effects of pollutants on the circulation of marine waters and evaluates the quality of fish habitats. The ice formations of the Canadian North are also of concern to the MLI as they are spotted from a distance and their movements studied. These facts are of great importance to the Canadian Hydrography Service which draws up navigation charts and publishes the useful information for recreational crafts, such as tide times and levels. Its chemists, interested in the effects of toxic products such as PCBs, lead, mercury, etc., also study Nordic waters.

Increased knowledge, the protection of our resources and the active implication of fishermen in matters pertaining to fish and its habitat are all part of the daily tasks and goals the Regional Science Branch of DFO.

Pour conserver et protéger le milieu de vie du poisson, le ministère des Pêches et des Océans (MPO), région du Québec, a grand besoin de données scientifiques de toutes sortes. C'est de la Direction régionale des sciences, à l'Institut Maurice-Lamontagne (IML) de Mont-Joli, que proviennent ces données essentielles.

La Direction régionale des sciences comprend les Sciences des pêches, les Sciences du milieu marin et l'Hydrographie. Les spécialistes de ces disciplines quadrillent le Saint-Laurent, les baies de James, d'Hudson et d'Ungava, de même que le bassin de Foxe et le détroit d'Hudson.

Les travaux de la Direction des sciences des pêches portent sur l'étude des échanges qui existent entre les espèces et leur milieu et sur les facteurs qui influencent la croissance des organismes marins, des poissons et des mammifères marins. En plus des recherches sur l'aquiculture, cette direction est aussi responsable d'un centre d'étude des parasites du poisson.

À la Direction des sciences du milieu marin, on étudie, entre autres, les phénomènes de circulation des eaux marines et de transport des polluants et on évalue la qualité de l'habitat du poisson. Les glaces du Nord canadien retiennent aussi l'attention des chercheurs de l'IML : ils les localisent à distance et étudient leurs déplacements. Ces données sont d'une grande importance pour le Service hydrographique du Canada, qui produit des cartes pour les navigateurs et publie l'information utile aux plaisanciers, par exemple les heures et niveaux de marées. Les chimistes, qui s'intéressent aux effets des produits toxiques (BPC, plomb, mercure, etc.) dans la chaîne alimentaire, étudient aussi les eaux nordiques.

Accroître nos connaissances, protéger nos ressources et impliquer les pêcheurs dans les questions reliées au poisson et à son habitat : voilà à quoi s'affaire chaque jour la Direction régionale des sciences du MPO.

ACRAF Photographie : Michel Gascon SAA

Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans

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